A.—The following proposals for the redistribution of revenue divisions and taluks in the Nellore district are under the consideration of Government :—

(i) to transfer the independent Deputy Tahsildar divisions of Podili and Darsi from the Nellore to the Guntur district and to include them in the Ongole revenue division; and
(ii) to abolish the Kavali revenue division by adding the Kavali taluk to the Kandukur revenue division and the Kovvur taluk to the Nellore (headquarters) revenue division.

These proposals were published in the *Nellore District Gazette*, dated 1st December 1924, for public criticism.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know what further action was taken or orders were passed on the subject ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No orders have been passed."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know whether an opportunity will be given to this House to discuss this subject before final orders are passed ? No one knows what orders will be passed. So before the orders are passed, will it be possible for the Government to publish the draft proposals ?"

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" As will be seen from the notification, it was published in last December; no communication has been received from any Member of this Council on the subject."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know whether representations were not received from persons who were affected and considered by Government ? Is it not a fact that the Board of Revenue has also considered these representations ? Another point is that a member of the Board of Revenue recently held a conference with some District Collectors."

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" What the hon. Member says is very probable. But we have no information. The Government have received no representations."

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" Before final orders are passed regarding this question, an opportunity should be given to the persons concerned to state their case."

Bifurcation scheme in Kistna district.

*388 *Q.*—Mr. P. PEDDIRAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations were made by the villagers of Potavaram, Yernagudam taluk, West Godavari district, requesting to include the said village in Tadepalligudam taluk in the bifurcation scheme ; and if so, what orders were passed thereon ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector, West Godavari, regarding the headquarters of the district, and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to publish the same to ascertain public opinion therein before final orders are passed ?

* Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" May I also point out to the hon. the Home Member that he has two voices, whereas the others have only one voice in the matter ? "

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" Then, I have absolutely no objection to speak now, Sir.

4-45 p.m. " Sir, with regard to this scheme I should just say that since I took charge of this portfolio I have bestowed my earnest attention on this subject and I came down to Madras to speak to the Mappilla prisoners and their families who sailed to the Andamans by the *Maharajah* on 9th July. I spoke to them daily for two or three days. I think that the prisoners are thoroughly satisfied that the conditions in the Andamans are exactly like those of Malabar. They think that this is a very good scheme because they are going to live there with their families."

Mr. T. M. Moidu Sahib :—" How can the families know that fact before going to the Andamans ? "

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" I am speaking of the prisoners who came from the Andamans. It was first of all stated that the Jail Committee have condemned the Andaman settlements for various reasons. I should like to point out to this hon. House that the conditions of 1919 do not exist at this present moment. Stress has been laid by my hon. Friend on the want of reformatory influences. I can now say that we have provided for the Mappilla villages one or two schools and a mosque and we have under consideration further schemes for bringing into existence more mosques and schools.

" With regard to the health conditions, after objections were raised on this question we have received various reports from persons like Major Frerar, the Commissioner of Port Blair, Major Barker, who has been there for two or three years and is now the Superintendent of Prisons in Coimbatore and two or three officers who have gone there. I have been able to collect information which points to the one conclusion that the health of the place is very much better and it is exactly like that of Malabar."

Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi :—" May I know if the conditions are good enough for the Mappillas or are they generally good ? If they are generally good why should the Mappillas alone be asked to go to these islands ? "

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" The conditions are good generally and one of the reasons why the Jail Committee condemned these islands is that they have wet weather, a weather just like that of Malabar."

* Mr. K. Uppi Sahib :—" May I know if there is so much malaria in Malabar as in the Andamans ? "

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :—" The Andamans may not suit the Madrasis. The climate of the islands is most suitable to the Malabar people. The deputation that waited upon me raised the question of immorality ; I am convinced that we are not subjecting the Mappilla women to any kind of risk. I have gone into the question thoroughly. I have asked the Tahsildar about it. There are about five Mappilla villages ; no other criminals are allowed to go there. We have the